

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7711, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: sjasinsk@usgs.gov

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7965
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: hphamdan@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN JANUARY 2004

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in January was slightly higher than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Compared with January 2003, production was 5% higher, which was equivalent to an annual production rate of 36.2 million metric tons (Mt).

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used in January increased by 2% over that in December, to 3.09 Mt. Phosphate rock sold or used was 8% higher in comparison with January 2003. U.S. producer stocks at the end of January increased by 2% over those in the prior month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier, were suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition, Census trade data is not available for the current month. Based on Census figures and data from the Moroccan producer, the USGS estimates that imports of phosphate rock average 200,000 tons per month.

Domestic apparent consumption for 2003 was 37.8 Mt, which was slightly higher than in 2002. Initial estimates indicate that domestic consumption in 2004 could be about 38.9 Mt, using annualized sales and use data and trade estimates.

On January 27, 2004, Cargill Corp. Nutrition, a business unit of Cargill Incorporated, and IMC Global Inc., announced plans to merge and create a new publicly traded company. The new company would combine the phosphate, feed phosphate, and potash businesses of IMC Global with Cargill's phosphate, feed phosphate, nitrogen production, and global distribution operations. It would control about 50% of U.S. phosphate rock production capacity and 57% of U.S. phosphoric acid production capacity. Worldwide, it would have 13% of phosphate rock production capacity and 14.4% of phosphoric acid capacity. In terms of world fertilizer sales, the new company would be second after Yara International ASA (formerly Hydro Agri). The proposed merger faces regulatory approval in the United States, Brazil, Canada, China, and several other countries and approval by IMC Global shareholders (Green Markets, 2004).

Reference Cited

Green Markets, 2004, Cargill and IMC agree to merger: Green Markets, v. 28, no. 5, February 2, p. 1, 11-12.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks ²		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2003:									
January	2,580	333	2,910	2,420	425	2,850	6,650	2,030	8,680
February	1,970	321	2,290	2,300	465	2,760	6,320	1,890	8,210
March	2,470	308	2,780	2,680	447	3,130	6,160	1,750	7,910
April	2,180	283	2,470	2,360	398	2,750	5,910	1,630	7,540
May	2,550	610	3,160	2,480	476	2,960	5,930	1,770	7,700
June	2,290	458	2,750	2,300	371	2,670	6,020	1,860	7,880
July	2,250	510	2,760	2,390	465	2,850	5,770	1,900	7,670
August	2,480	628	3,110	2,750	483	3,230	5,530	2,050	7,570
September	2,550	415	2,970	2,610	405	3,010	5,460	2,050	7,510
October	2,650	430	3,080	2,720	369	3,090	5,430	2,110	7,540
November	2,450	348	2,800	2,610	496	3,100	5,260	2,080	7,340
December	2,690	343	3,030	2,610	413	3,020	5,320	2,020	7,330
January-December	29,100	4,990	34,100	30,200	5,210	35,400	XX	XX	XX
2004:									
January	2,720	346	3,070	2,660	432	3,090	5,390	2,100	7,490

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2002:		
December	127	5,230
January-December	1,320	54,900
Total year ³	2,700	112,000
2003: ⁴		
January	65	1,790
February	131	5,180
March	110	1,990
April	153	5,610
May	138	5,340
June	82	2,090
July	92	4,270
August	144	5,750
September	130	4,990
October	63	1,690
November	93	3,990
December	88	2,430
January-December	1,290	45,100
Total year ³	2,400	84,000

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2002	2003	2004 ^{e,1}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	31.1	29.1	32.1
Idaho and Utah	5.0	5.0	4.1
Total ²	36.1	34.1	36.2
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	29.8	30.2	31.4
Idaho and Utah	4.9	5.2	5.1
Total ²	34.7	35.4	36.5
Yearend stocks	8.9	7.3	7.5
Exports	(3) ⁴	W	--
Average value per ton	W	W	NA
Imports for consumption ^e	2.7	2.4	2.4
Average value per ton	\$41.45	\$35.55	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e,5}	37.4	37.8	38.9

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

⁴Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

⁵Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.